

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10-12 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 9 and 13 as follows:

1. (Original) In a storage system having a plurality of interface ports and a plurality of logical devices, wherein the interface ports are connected to a multiple protocol label switching (MPLS) network and the interface ports are formed to conduct MPLS protocol, a method of establishing a path between a logical device and a client connected to the MPLS network, comprising:
 - selecting an interface port from among the plurality of interface ports;
 - establishing a label switching path via the selected interface port to a client having a requested bandwidth;
 - setting a service priority of the selected interface port to the client in response to the requested bandwidth; and
 - operatively connecting at least one logical device selected from the plurality of the logical devices to the selected interface port.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selecting the interface port from among the plurality of interface ports includes selecting the interface port based on a bandwidth characteristic of the interface port.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of establishing a label switching path between the selected interface port and the client having a requested bandwidth includes establishing the label switch path based on performance characteristics of the label switch path and matching the bandwidth characteristic of the selected interface port with the performance characteristic of the label switch path.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of establishing a label switching path between the selected interface port and the client having a requested bandwidth includes establishing the label switch path based on performance characteristics of the label switch path.

5. (Original) In a storage system having a plurality of interface ports and a plurality of logical devices, wherein the interface ports are connected to a multiple protocol label switching (MPLS) network and the interface ports are formed to conduct MPLS protocol, a method of establishing a path between a logical device and a client connected to the MPLS network, comprising:
 - selecting an interface port from among the plurality of ports;
 - requesting a management server connected to the MPLS network to establish a label switching path between the selected interface port and a client having a requested bandwidth;
 - establishing the label switching path between the selected interface port and the client with the requested bandwidth in response to said requesting step;
 - setting a service priority of the selected interface port with respect to the client in response to the requested bandwidth; and
 - attaching at least one of the plurality of logical devices to the selected interface port.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of selecting the interface port from among the plurality of interface ports includes selecting the interface port based on a bandwidth characteristic of the interface port.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said step of requesting a management server connected to the MPLS network to establish a label switching path between the selected interface port and a client having a requested bandwidth includes determining performance characteristic of the label switch path to be established and matching the bandwidth characteristic of the selected interface port with the performance characteristic of the label switch path.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of establishing a label switching path between the selected interface port and the client having a requested bandwidth includes establishing the label switch path based on performance characteristics of the label switch path.
9. (Currently Amended) A storage system, comprising:

a plurality of interface ports coupled to a multiple protocol label switching (MPLS) network, each of the interface ports being formed to establish a label switching path (LSP) to a client coupled to the MPLS network; and

a plurality of logical devices formed to be operatively attachable to at least one of the plurality of interface ports,

wherein each of said plurality of interface ports includes a means for establishing a label switching path in response to a client having a requested bandwidth, means for setting a priority of service to the client with which the label switching path is established in response to the requested bandwidth.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A storage system of claim 12, comprising:

a plurality of interface ports coupled to a multiple protocol label switching (MPLS) network, each of the interface ports being formed to establish a label switching path (LSP) to a client coupled to the MPLS network;

a plurality of logical devices formed to be operatively attachable to at least one of the plurality of interface ports; and

a management server operatively connected to the MPLS network, the management server including a means for establishing a label switching path between at least one of the plurality of interface ports and a client coupled to the MPLS network,

wherein said client has a requested bandwidth, and said management server further includes means for setting a priority of service to the client with which the label switching path is established in response to the requested bandwidth.